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ANCIENT GREEK FOLKSONG TRADITION¹

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Summary: The aim of my paper is to outline an overview of the collection of the *Carmina popularia*. In particular, I will criticise the *modus operandi* employed so far in arranging this *corpus* and meditate on what can be deemed ‘folk song’ in ancient Greece. As case studies, I shall take the five begging songs handed down to us. I shall also provide a revised text and a critical apparatus for each poem.

Key words: folksong, *carmina popularia*, begging songs, *eiresione*, *chelidonism*, *koronisma*

1. STATE OF THE ART

Since the 19th century, editors have gathered together a series of anonymous melic poems under the label *Carmina popularia*. They are characterized by their plain style and irregular metrical form and can neither be attributed to a genre nor to an authorial model.² As a result, a *corpus* – or rather a *corpusculum* – has been formed, outside the official body of ‘high’ poetry, divided into specific *genera* and authors. In modern terms they would be defined as ‘popular/folk songs’³ consisting of e.g. begging songs, love songs, work songs, war songs, nursery rhymes, dance songs, ritual songs and so on.

¹ This paper contains some of the most significant results featured in my Master Thesis entitled *I canti di questua della Grecia antica: edizione critica, traduzione e commento* (*The Begging Songs of Ancient Greece: Critical Edition, Translation and Commentary*). I defended it on 25th September 2013 at the University of Bologna. Professor Camillo Neri and Professor Federico Condello acted as supervisors.

² Here I mean those texts whose ‘historical authors’ are unknown; cf. PALMISCIANO, R.: *Submerged Literature in an Oral Culture*. In COLESANTI, G. – GIORDANO M. (eds.): *Submerged Literature in Ancient Greek Culture*. Berlin–Boston 2014, 19–32, here 20f.

³ «Classicists tend to use the terms ‘popular song’ and ‘folk song’ interchangeably» (YATROMANOLAKIS, D.: *Ancient Greek Popular Song*. In BUDELMANN, F. [ed.]: *The Cambridge Companion to Greek Lyric*. Cambridge 2009, 263–276, here 263, n. 3). On these conventional markers, see n. 9.

In the wake of the pioneering efforts of Ilgen in 1797 (his publication was exclusively devoted to Begging Songs) and of Zell in 1826, the first systematic collection was that of Köster published in 1831.⁴ Several publications followed.⁵ Neri's edition is based on Page's sylloge (*PMG* 847–883, which is today seen as the most authoritative reference collection), and represents the most recent overall collection of melic 'popular' poems; a translation, a synthetic commentary and exhaustive bibliographical notes accompany it.⁶

While most of these scholars provide an overview of songs that have never been incorporated into 'high' literature, they do not take into account the traditional background of these texts. Consequently, some specific issues and aspects are not dealt with. Here I refer specifically to (1) the preservation and transmission of this type of texts; (2) their relationship with 'high' and 'official' literature; (3) their relationship with modern folksong tradition. Therefore I am fully convinced that a new edition accompanied by a commentary is needed, in particular one that is aware of these specific challenges.

In order to fill this current gap in classical studies, I have decided to direct my PhD research efforts towards the preparation of a new *corpus* of *Popularia*,⁷

⁴ ILGEN, C. D.: *EIPEΣIΩNH* Homeri et alia poeseos mendicorum Graecorum specimina cum nonnullis nostri temporis carminibus ex hoc genere comparata. In ILGEN, C. D.: *Opuscula varia philologica*. Vol. I–II. Erfordiae 1797, I 129–184; ZELL, K.: Über die Volkslieder der alten Griechen. In ZELL, K.: *Ferienschriften*. Vol. I–II. Freiburg 1826, I 53–90; KÖSTER, H.: *De cantilenis popularibus veterum Graecorum*. Berolini 1831.

⁵ SCHNEIDEWIN, F. W.: *Delectus poesis Graecorum Elegiacae, Iambicae, Melicae*. Vol. I–II. Göttingae 1838–1839, II 456–467; BERGK, T.: *Poetae Lyrici Graeci*. Lipsiae 1882⁴ (1843¹, 1853², [1866–] 1867³), 654–688; SMYTH, H. W.: *Greek Melic Poets*. London 1900, 154–162; DIEHL, E.: *Anthologia Lyrica Graeca*. Vol. I–II. Lipsiae 1925, II 192–208; EDMONDS, J. M.: *Lyra Graeca*. Vol. I–III. Cambridge, Mass. – London 1928–1940² (1922–1927¹), III 488–549; PAGE, D. L.: *Poetae Melici Graeci*. Oxford 1962, 450–470; NERI, C.: Sotto la politica. Una lettura dei *Carmina popularia* melici. *Lexis* 21 (2003) 193–255.

⁶ See also CERRATO, L.: I canti popolari della Grecia antica. *RFIC* 13 (1885) 193–260, 289–368; LAMBIN, G.: *La chanson grecque dans l'antiquité*. Paris 1992. Without distinguishing between authorial poetry and traditional poetry, both scholars searched for the element of 'popular' in both. For an overview of stylistic, linguistic and metrical features in the *Carmina popularia*, see PORDOMINGO, F.: La poesía popular griega: aspectos histórico-literarios y formas de transmisión. In PECERE, O. – STRAMAGLIA, A. (a cura di): *La letteratura di consumo nel mondo greco-latino*. «Atti del Convegno Internazionale. Cassino, 14–17 settembre 1994». Cassino 1996, 461–482. Cf. also PORDOMINGO, F.: Las citas de *Carmina popularia* en Plutarco. In D'IPPOLITO, G. – GALLO, I. (a cura di): *Strutture formali dei Moralia di Plutarco*. *Atti del III Convegno plutarqueo*. Palermo, 3–5 maggio 1989. Napoli 1991, 213–224; PORDOMINGO, F.: Poesía popular y poesía literaria griegas: relaciones intertextuales. In BÉCARES, V. et al. (eds.): *Intertextualidad en las literaturas Griega y Latina*. Madrid 2000, 77–104; PALMISCIANO, R.: È mai esistita la poesia popolare nella Grecia antica? In NICOLAI, R. (a cura di): *Rysmos. Studi di poesia, metrica e musica greca offerti dagli allievi a L.E. Rossi per i suoi settant'anni*. Roma 2003, 151–171; YATROMANOLAKIS (n. 3); MAGNANI, M.: Note marginali ai *Carmina popularia*. *Eikasmós* 24 (2013) 45–66. On the origin and development of the collection – with an analysis of the tradition, metre and content of the texts contained in it – see MAGNANI, M.: *Carmina popularia: origine e sviluppo della raccolta*. *Paideia* 58 (2013) 543–573.

⁷ An attempt in this direction was that of PORDOMINGO, F.: *La poesía popular griega. Estudio filológico y literario*. Diss. doct. ined. Salamanca 1979 (cf. PORDOMINGO, F.: *Resumenes de tesis doctorales*. Facultad de filología – Univ. de Salamanca T-L-F-5/1979).

completed with a systematic commentary, revised text, critical apparatus and translation in modern English.

Let us look at the nature of this new collection. Is Page's sylloge already complete and definitive or does it require revision and updating? In this latter case, the first step should consist in identifying, within Greek literature, those songs which merit inclusion in the category of *Popularia*. However, one question arises spontaneously.⁸

2. DID ANCIENT GREEK POPULAR POETRY EVER EXIST?

The definition of 'popular' has long been recognised as problematic – and not only in the narrow field of classical studies.⁹ The most common approaches used to define the notion of 'a popular song' or, more generally, 'popular culture' are based on binary opposites such as 'low-high', 'many-few', 'oral-written', 'simple-complex', 'anonymous-authorial', 'periphery-centre' and so forth. Nevertheless, each of these two-tier models involves a series of conceptual difficulties.

Take, for example, the case of the first two opposites: 'low-high' and 'many-few'. They encompass a range of definitions, which can be termed either 'quantitative' or 'qualitative' respectively. The former implies a sort of aesthetic bias, following which all of the popular literature is to be seen as the product of talentless authors and thus catalogued as bad literature. It is rather like saying that in every era and society there have existed two completely distinct cultures: the culture of ordinary people and the culture of the elite. However, we are now well aware of the vagueness of boundaries separating learned culture and 'popular' culture. They are – it can no longer be denied – intersecting sets.

The latter definition has the definite plus of not using an evaluative criterion, merely a descriptive one. All the same, problems remain. It implies that the more a literary genre is well known and liked by people, the more popular it is. Although we manage to find "a figure over which something becomes popular culture, and below which it is just culture",¹⁰ we could be faced with an excessively large amount of heterogeneous material.

Nor can we draw on the opposites 'oral and written' and regard the oral mode of diffusion as a guarantee of 'popular songs'. Even if this were so, it would not ring true, because we would be forced to use a dichotomy that does not belong to all

⁸ The query put by PALMISCIANO (n. 6).

⁹ For a general discussion, see e.g. HANSEN, W. (ed.): *Anthology of Ancient Greek Popular Literature*. Bloomington–Indianapolis 1998, xi–xxiii; BURKE, P.: *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe*. Farnham 2009³ (London 1978¹), xvi–xxvii; PARKER, H. N.: Toward a Definition of Popular Culture. *H&T* 50 (2011) 147–170. Needless to say, along with 'popular', terms as 'folk', 'folkloric' and 'traditional' all share similar definition problems: cf. e.g. YATROMANOLAKIS (n. 3) 264 (esp. ns. 6 and 9); MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 560 n. 67.

¹⁰ STOREY, J.: *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*. Athens 2006⁴, 4; quoted by PARKER (n. 9) 150.

societies of all ages.¹¹ There appears to be a vicious circle: by adopting any one of the aforementioned definitions, some problems and ambiguities are indeed smoothed out, but others are created at the same time.

In view of such, albeit brief, considerations, clearly a univocal definition of 'popular' is still distant from general acceptance. The lack of this type of theorisation is much more evident in studies in antiquity.¹²

To quote Yatromanolakis, "There is no doubt that in archaic, classical and Hellenistic Greece anonymously transmitted song-making traditions existed."¹³ Indeed, there is no lack of information about this part of ancient culture.¹⁴ Traditional ritual songs are already attested in Homer's poems. For instance, the λίνος, which is generally assumed to be a song of lamentation, possibly performed by particular categories of working people, is described in *Il.* XVIII 569–572 as well as in *Hdt.* II 79. It is also opportune to quote *Ath.* XIV 618c–620a. In this passage, the erudite, through his sources, provides a sort of summary of the names, characteristics and origins of some songs that evidently belonged to the folkloric heritage of Greece. The songs dealt with are the following: ἱμαῖος (sung at millstones); λίνος/αἰλινος (sung by women working at a loom); ἱουλος/οὔλος (sung by wool-workers); καταβαυκαλήσεις ('lullabies'); ἀλῆτις (sung at the 'Swing/Noose' Festival); Λιτυέρσης (sung by harvesters); others sung by hired labourers, bath-men or women winnowing grain; pastoral songs (βουκολιασμός and νόμιος); funeral songs (ὄλοφυρμός, ἰάλεμος and Βῶρμος); songs in honour of Demeter (ἱουλος/οὔλος), Apollo (φίληλιάς) and Artemis (οὔπιγγοι); wedding songs (ὕμέναιος); love songs (Καλύκη and Ἀρπαλύκη).

Nevertheless, it has to be clarified that no ancient Greek terms can be found that perfectly translate the modern category of 'folk song', as opposed to the authorial and literary production. There are occurrences of terms that derive from the same root as δῆμος, but none of them can be compared to the modern notions of 'folk song' or 'folk culture', whatever these last ones may mean.¹⁵ Among the most significant examples, it is worth mentioning the term δαμώματα, which occurs in *Stesich. PMGF* 212 and

¹¹ Cf. YATROMANOLAKIS (n. 3) 264f. Even the term 'oral' raises a series of theoretical and methodological problems. It will be enough to remember here that the concepts of 'folk poetry' and 'oral poetry' have often overlapped. For instance, the authoritative definition by Lord describes 'oral poetry' as «poetry composed in oral performance by people who cannot read or write. It is synonymous with traditional and folk poetry» (LORD, A. B.: *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*. 1965, 591, s.v. 'oral poetry'). On orality and oral poetry, see e.g. FINNEGAN, R. H.: *Oral Poetry: its Nature, Significance, and Social Context*. Cambridge – New York 1977; FINNEGAN, R. H.: *Literacy and Orality: Studies in the Technology of Communication*. Oxford – New York 1988; LORD, A. B.: *Epic Singers and Oral Tradition*. Ithaca – London 1991; LORD, A. B.: *The Singer Resumes the Tale*. Ithaca – London 1995. For orality in ancient Greek culture, crucial references can be found in ERCOLANI, A.: Defining the Indefinable: Greek Submerged Literature and Some Problems of Terminology. In COLESANTI–GIORDANO (n. 2) 7–18, here 13, n. 17; PALMISCIANO (n. 2) 19, n. 1.

¹² Cf. PARKER (n. 9) 149f., n. 18.

¹³ YATROMANOLAKIS (n. 3) 264.

¹⁴ See PALMISCIANO (n. 6) 154f., 167, n. 44; MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 559–563.

¹⁵ See NERI (n. 5) 194f.; PALMISCIANO (n. 6) 154, n. 6; YATROMANOLAKIS (n. 3) 265; MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 560f.; LELLI, E.: *Folklore antico e moderno. Una proposta di ricerca sulla cultura popolare greca e romana*. Pisa 2014, 29–31.

in its parodic version Ar. *Pax* 796–801. A scholium to Aristophanes' passage glosses it as τὰ δημοσία ᾄδόμενα and removes all doubt on its interpretation: δαμώματα are the songs performed in public, as opposed to those composed for narrower ambits, such as the symposium.¹⁶ When Plutarchus, in his *Life of Pericles* (30. 4), defines four lines of Aristophanes' *Acharnians* as περιβόητα καὶ δημῶδη στιχίδια (524–527), he is merely referring to the fame of those verses. Another example occurs in Plato's *Phaedo* (61a): for the philosopher there is a sharp distinction between μουσικὴ μεγίστη – that is, philosophy – and μουσικὴ δημῶδης, which includes all sorts of songs, musical performances and poetry.

The fact that the notion of 'popular' remained untheorised in the ancient Greek world should not surprise us. Indeed, marked categories such as 'popular poetry', 'folk song' and 'folk culture' are all conceptualisations that have become current in literary criticism since the 18th century and have been anachronistically related to ancient Greek literature only later.¹⁷ Hence, as mentioned above, the collection named *Carmina popularia* was created, albeit devoid of clear and well-defined criteria of composition.

We can in fact identify, among the songs of this *corpus*, a series of common features, which probably led to the creation of the *corpus* itself: anonymous authorship; oral composition, performance and transmission; textual fluidity (the so-called 'open tradition'); basic grammatical, lexical and syntactic structures; motley and frequently irregular metres and rhythms.¹⁸ Nevertheless, although these features could doubtlessly represent a precious starting point for interpreting and understanding ancient Greek folksong tradition as a whole, attention must be paid not to setting them as mere benchmarks. Otherwise, we would confine ourselves to studying sets of texts that are defined from the start as 'popular'. In this way, the *corpus* of *Popularia* would remain in its current state: a capacious, all-welcoming box into which all of the material that has not found its place within the 'official' and 'canonical' literature has been rudely thrust.

Let us return to the question posed at the beginning of this section: has ancient Greek popular poetry ever existed? Whatever answer will be given, we should bear well in mind that terms as 'folk' and 'popular' were entirely foreign to ancient Greek culture. If we want to apply them to the textual output of ancient Greece, we should be aware of the historical perspectives that those terms entail.

Over the last few decades, scholars have embraced other different approaches, which to some extent tackle the issue of ancient Greek folksong tradition. For instance, Neri suggests contrasting the *Carmina popularia* with the 'political' – i.e. related to the life of the *polis* – genres: e.g. epic, didactic poetry, lyric, tragedy, comedy, scientific, philosophical and historiographical prose. However, as the scholar acknowledges himself, the label 'anti-political' (ἀντὶ τῆς πόλεως) does not suit our texts, which were integral part of the civic framework. Although they concerned minor aspects of

¹⁶ *Schol.*^{RVTLh} Ar. *Pax* 798 Holw.

¹⁷ Cf. NERI (n. 5) 195; YATROMANOLAKIS (n. 3) 263f.; MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 559–564.

¹⁸ See PORDOMINGO (n. 6); NERI (n. 5) 196–198; MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 564f.

the 'political' life, they were perfectly integrated into the festivals, rites and activities of the *polis*.¹⁹

A more prolific approach – and also more complex due to the variety of the subjects examined – is undoubtedly what stems from the observations of Rossi about the so-called 'submerged literature':

By '*submerged*' literature I mean [...] texts which were mistreated from the very beginning of their transmission, and even texts which were not transmitted at all. These texts benefited of neither *control* nor *protection*, either because *no community had any interest in their preservation*, or because it was in the interest of a community that they be concealed, and even suppressed (as in the instance of everything that had to do with the mysteries). It is the case, however, that while a good deal of these texts have engaged us in a game of hide-and-seek, their part in shaping Greek culture as we know it was in fact considerable: there would be a great deal to gain if we could bring them back to light, although only parts of the whole may be recovered. For some time I have been thinking about the advantages of arranging these texts into a collection, which should display the (very few) fully preserved texts first, then the fragments, and finally the *testimonia*. The task would not be easy to accomplish, but deserves to be attempted.²⁰

The scholar also lists a series of texts and of typologies of texts, which should feature in this supposed collection of 'submerged literature'. The seventh position is occupied by the very *Carmina Popolaria*.²¹

A research group of Rossi's pupils has developed this project further, by coordinating a series of seminars (2011–2014) and publishing some of the results in a recent

¹⁹ See NERI (n. 5) 198f. Cf. MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 565.

²⁰ ERCOLANI (n. 11) 7. See ROSSI, L. E.: L'autore e il controllo del testo nel mondo antico. *SemRom* 3 (2000) 165–181, here 170: "Con letteratura 'sommersa' io intendo [...] testi maltrattati fin dal primissimo inizio della trasmissione, o anche testi che non hanno avuto alcuna trasmissione affatto. Questi testi non hanno goduto di alcun controllo e di alcuna protezione sia perché le varie comunità non avevano alcun interesse a conservarli sia perché avevano, piuttosto, interesse a nascondarli o addirittura a sopprimerli: quest'ultima categoria è rappresentata da quanto era legato ai misteri. Ma molti di questi testi, che dal nostro punto di osservazione giocano a nascondino, hanno avuto grande importanza nel configurare i vari momenti della cultura greca così come ci si presentano, ed è ovviamente nostro interesse cercare di rimetterli in luce, sia pure di necessità parzialmente. È per questo che da qualche tempo penso che sarebbe utile farne una raccolta, che dovrebbe configurarsi per testi integri (rari), per frammenti e infine per testimonianze. Non sarebbe un compito facile: ma varrebbe la pena affrontarlo." On the figure of Rossi as historian of literature, see NICOLAI, R.: Luigi Enrico Rossi storico della letteratura greca. *Eikasmos* 24 (2013) 367–406, esp. 371f.

²¹ ROSSI (n. 20) 172: "Tutto quello che è compreso nella sezione *Carmina popularia* dei *Poetae melici Graeci* di Page, considerando che ci sono soltanto i frammenti di testo, mentre bisognerebbe integrare con titoli, testimonianze etc. Importanti i canti di lavoro, i lamenti funebri, i canti di nozze, tutti testimoniati fin da Omero." On the necessity of arranging a collection also of the *testimonia*, cf. MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 570f.: the scholar calls for a census of some particular anonymous *corpora*, sporadically quoted by the sources.

volume on this topic.²² Their inquiry aims to “understand what part of ancient Greek textual production became ‘submerged’, in what manner, and why”²³ and, to this end, their approach privileges the ‘context’ of the textual production, that is to say the occasion and performance of texts themselves.

As it can be readily noted, more work remains to be done in advancing our understanding of what the texts collected in the *Carmina popularia* really were and meant in ancient Greek times. And in identifying methodological approaches that may take into account the variety and complexity of this particular typology of texts. For this purpose, I repeat, I am convinced that a new *corpus* of *Popularia*²⁴ is needed.

3. THE BEGGING SONGS

Here is an example of what I have in mind when talking about a new *corpus* of *Popularia*. I would like to focus on the specific case of begging songs.

Begging songs belong to the European ethnographic heritage. They were mostly performed by groups of young people, who, either dressed up in costumes or not, or making use of extemporaneous totems or not, would on festive occasions²⁵ go from home to home, asking for gifts such as food and drink. Scholars of folklore studies have formulated various hypotheses about the origin of begging songs, but they are generally traced back to the ancient seasonal rites of the rural world, which in both the pagan and Christian era often merged into the more traditional ritual calendar.

The ancient Greek sources hand us down five begging songs (see *infra*, App.): the *chelidonisma* or ‘swallow song’ (F 1), the *koronisma* or ‘crow song’ (F 2), the Samian *eiresione* (F 3), the Attic *eiresione* (F 4) and the song of Sicilian shepherds (F 5).²⁶ These entire song-texts stem – more or less directly – from a common tradition,

²² COLESANTI–GIORDANO (n. 2): the names of the scholars who have composed this research group are listed on p. 1 n. 4. One of them, Palmisciano, came to propose a definition of ‘popular’ so as to be applied to ancient Greek literature (see *infra*, § 4).

²³ ERCOLANI (n. 11) 16.

²⁴ Even the definition of *carmina* can turn out ambiguous and misleading: cf. MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 544.

²⁵ See e.g. LEYDI, R. – MANTOVANI, S.: *Dizionario della musica popolare europea*, Milano 1970, 79–82 (s.v. ‘Carol’), 180–185 (s.v. ‘Maggio’), 211–213 (s.v. ‘Canti di questua’); GRI, G. P.: *Tradizioni popolari friulane nel Goriziano*. In TASSIN, F. (ed.): *Cultura friulana nel Goriziano*. Gorizia 1988, 177–190, here 178–184. In the field of classical studies, see ROBERTSON, N.: Greek Ritual Begging in Aid of Women’s Fertility and Childbirth. *TAPhA* 113, 1983, 143–169. The scholar describes a series of female begging rituals associated with cults of different gods in different regions of Greece.

²⁶ The first and unique edition exclusively devoted to the begging songs is that of ILGEN (n. 4). Cf. later SCHÖNBERGER, O.: *Griechische Heischelieder*. Meisenheim a.G. 1980; LAMBIN (n. 6) 351–375; PALUMBO STRACCA, B. M.: I canti di questua nella Grecia antica (I): il canto della rondine (*PMG* 848). *RCCM* 56.1 (2014) 57–78; PALUMBO STRACCA, B. M.: I canti di questua nella Grecia antica (II): *Eiresione* samia ed *Eiresione* attica. *RCCM* 56.2 (2014) 245–264. Schönberger and Lambin also include the pseudo-Homeric *kaminos* (*Vit. Hom. Herod.* 32. 433–461 All., *Suda* o 251 A.), which is, however, not regarded by them as a real begging song. On the *kaminos*, see MARKWALD, G.: *Die homerischen Epigramme*. Meisenheim a.G. – Königstein 1986, 219–244. Palumbo Stracca argues that the Attic *eiresione* cannot be considered a begging song. But hers is an *argumentum ex silentio*, on the basis of the text – which

but only F 1 and F 5 have been included without exception in the *corpora* of *Popularella*. This is the risk we run if we apply the aforementioned blurred and ill-defined collection criteria too strictly. In fact using them excludes FF 2–4 from Page's edition (PMG), given their authorial (or pseudo-authorial) character and/or their regular metrical form. Therefore, it is necessary to revisit these poems on the grounds of their common belonging to the begging tradition of ancient Greece.

The *koronisma* and the *chelidonisma* are transmitted in succession by *Deipnosophistae* of Athenaeus (VIII 359e–360d), in a small section devoted to ἀγερμός ('begging') and the songs that accompanied it. Both texts represent a reworking of two ancient begging songs, handed down from generation to generation and performed on the occasion of special events.

As Theognis informs us,²⁷ the *chelidonisma* was a song that accompanied traditional begging in Rhodes, called χελιδονίζειν and was presumably performed by children (cf. l. 20) to celebrate the arrival of spring (cf. ll. 1–5).²⁸ This context of performance is confirmed by similar modern songs, stemming – more or less directly – from the Greek text and still performed in some areas of Greece, during the Easter holidays or in spring. We can get a glimpse of the very similar opening lines of some *chelidonismata* collected by Passow:

«Χελιδόνι ἔρχεται,
Θάλασσαν ἀπέρασε».
«Χελιδόνα ἔρχεται
Ἀπ' τὴν ἄσπρη θάλασσαν».
«Ἦρθε, ἦρθε χελιδόνα,
Ἦρθε κι' ἄλλη μελιηδόνα».²⁹

may be fragmentary – and the *testimonia*, which may all stem from the same attidographic sources: cf. PALUMBO STRACCA: I canti II (n. 26) 259–262.

²⁷ The *chelidonisma* is quoted by Athenaeus through Theognis' work Περὶ τῶν ἐν Ῥόδῳ θυσίων (FGrHist 526 F 1). See MORELLI, G.: Un antico carme popolare rodiese. *SIFC* 35 (1963) 121–160, here 126–132: according to the scholar, Athenaeus quoted Theognis through the Ῥοδιακά, an anonymous work of the 1st or 2nd century AD, which in its turn derives from Pamphilus' treatise Περὶ γλωσσῶν καὶ ὀνομάτων (1st century AD). Cf. already WILAMOWITZ-MOELLENDORFF, U. VON: *Vita Homeri et Hesiodi*. Bonn 1916, 57. It is without doubt hard to wholeheartedly endorse Morelli's reconstruction and assert with absolute certainty that there existed a collection of Ῥοδιακά between Pamphilus and Athenaeus. Notwithstanding this, it is quite sure that Athenaeus did not employ Theognis first-hand. It is more likely that he exploited, directly or not, Pamphilus' work. Cf. MAGNANI: Note marginali (n. 6) 51–53.

²⁸ Theognis (Ath. VIII 360b–d) writes that the Rhodian swallow begging is held τῷ Βοηδρομιῶνι μηνί. However, according to most scholars, Theognis (or the manuscript tradition) wrongly substituted the Rhodian month Badromios (February–March) for the Attic form Boedromion (September–October): see SMYTH (n. 5) 507; EDMONDS (n. 5) 527, n. 2; MORELLI (n. 27) 121f., n. 1; ADRADOS, F. R.: La canción rodía de la golondrina y la cerámica de Tera. *Emerita* 42 (1974) 47–68 (=ADRADOS, F. R.: *El mundo de la lírica griega antigua*. Madrid 1981, 311–331), here 47, n. 1; DE STEFANI, C.: Fenice di Colofone fr. 2 Diehl³. Introduzione, testo critico, comment. *SCO* 47.2 (2000) 81–121, here 83, n. 10; NERI (n. 5) 203. According to MAGNANI: Note marginali (n. 6) 53–56, this misunderstanding in Athenaeus or in his source may bring us even closer to the origin of the written tradition of the poem.

²⁹ PASSOW, A.: *Popularia carmina Graeciae recentioris*. Lipsiae 1860, 225–227 nos. 305, 307 (Thessaly), 307a (Thessaly). Today there are a number of websites that feature some of κάλαντα τῆς ἀνοιξῆς ('spring carols'), categorised by regions and cities of Greece: see e.g. <<http://amplokaristes.blogspot.it/>>

As regards the *koronisma*, the context in which it was performed is a matter of debate. Neither the ancient sources nor the comparisons with modern folksong tradition can help us with this issue. In general, the *koronisma* is regarded as the autumnal or winter equivalent of the *chelidonisma*.³⁰

It may also be remembered that the swallow and the crow, in whose honour songs were performed, were ostensibly represented through a stylized disguise, or a notched (maybe painted) wood totem of the same bird.³¹ In this regard, I may refer to a video,³² in it, a cortège of men and boys from Neochori³³ perform the *kálan̄ta tḗs ánoīxīs* ('spring carol') around the town. Performers are holding the image of a swallow that they spin with a piece of string not unlike a spinning top.³⁴

In the light of these considerations, both the *chelidonisma* and the *koronisma* appear to be part of the folkloric heritage of ancient Greece. However, the *koronisma* has been systematically excluded from the various collections of the *Carmina popularia*, because of its authorial character and its regular metre. It was composed by Phoenix of Colophon³⁵ in choliambics and therefore ascribed to the Hellenistic iambic production. On the contrary, the *chelidonisma*, which is an anonymous poem written in aeolic-choriambic and iambic metres, has appeared under that label since the earliest editions of Greek lyrics. It is legitimate to wonder how valid this exclusion is.

According to Theognis, the swallow song was strictly related to the begging that happened in Rhodes. Cleobulus first introduced this practice in Lindos,³⁶ "when

2011/04/blog-post.html> [30. 11. 2014]. On these modern songs and related bibliography, see SMYTH (n. 5) 507f.; CESSI, C.: *Storia della letteratura greca dalle origini all'età di Giustiniano*. Torino 1933, 491f.; JACOB, O.: Le chant populaire des Rhodiens: le retour de l'Hirondelle. *LEC* 6 (1937) 232–246, here 242–246; THOMPSON, D'A. W.: *A Glossary of Greek Birds*. London–Oxford 1936, 320; SCHÖNBERGER (n. 26) 64–74; CAMPBELL, D. A.: *Greek Lyric Poetry*. Bristol 1982² (1967¹), 446f.; LAMBIN (n. 6) 365; MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 572f.

³⁰ The only other reference to crows related to a 'popular' tradition is the motto *ἐκκόπει κοπέ κορώ-νῃ*, also known as *ἐκκόρει κοπέ κορώνας* (cf. *PMG* 881). The sources (cf. Horap. *Hier.* I 8, *schol.*^{BDEFGQ} Pind. *P.* 3,32c Drachm.) regarded it as a nuptial refrain: the crow, indeed, is the symbol of marital fidelity and harmony (see also Aelian. *NA* III 9). Perhaps, the *koronisma* was intoned on the occasion of wedding rites. On *PMG* 881 and its interpretations, see CERRATO (n. 6) 237–242; RIESS, E.: The Crow. *Classical Weekly* 37 (1943/1944) 178f.; MIRALLES, C.: *Carmina popularia* fr. 35 Page. *Faventia* 3.1 (1981) 89–96; LAMBIN (n. 6) 86–92, 104; PORDOMINGO (n. 6) 468, 471, 478; DE STEFANI (n. 28) 88; NERI (n. 5) 249–251.

³¹ Cf. CERRATO (n. 6) 326; SMYTH (n. 5) 507; JACOB (n. 29) 233; ADRADOS (n. 28) 52; SNELL, B. – FRANYO, Z.: *Frühgriechische Lyriker*. Vol. I–IV (*Die Chorlyriker*). Berlin 1971–1976, IV 107; WEST, M. L.: *Greek Lyric Poetry*. Oxford 1993, 212.

³² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8hBo40J3qs> [20. 06. 2015]

³³ A village on the peninsula of Pelion, Magnesia, eastern Thessaly, Greece.

³⁴ In modern begging traditions some people also employ a captured, slaughtered and impaled animal as described by Burkert: "In Wales and Ireland a wren was hunted, killed, and carried on a stick by a procession of singing boys who proceeded to beg for money and food for an evening feast right on Christmas Day" (BURKERT, W.: *Structure and History in Greek Mythology and Ritual*. Berkeley – Los Angeles – London 1979, 137).

³⁵ Phoenix of Colophon lived in the 3rd century BC and was the author of two books of iambi. Only about eighty lines have been preserved. For an overview of this poet, see recently DE STEFANI (n. 28) 81f.

³⁶ Cleobulus was one of the Seven Sages and the tyrant of Lindos for forty years. His *akmé* dates from 628–625 BC (see M. G. ALBIANI in *NP* VI (1999) 576, s.v. 'Kleobulos' 1); A. MARCHIORI in CANFORA, L. (ed.): *Ateneo. I deipnosophisti. I dotti a banchetto*. Vol. I–IV. Roma 2001, II 897f., n. 5).

there was need in that city of a collection of money". Taken at face value, this account implies that the tyrant of Lindos reinvented the ancient propitiatory rite connected with the arrival of spring – maybe widespread in other areas of the island as well as of the entire Greek world – for the purpose of a 'daring economic policy'.³⁷ This information, however, may well be unreliable. Indeed, it is now common knowledge that witnesses may be biased and their claims often completely baseless, when they state that an illustrious character, such as Cleobulus, 'invented' a particular tradition, especially a literary one.³⁸ It therefore seems unwise to say, on the basis of this anecdote, that Athenaeus' version reproduces the *chelidonisma* as it was really composed and diffused in Rhodes at the time of Cleobulus (7th/6th century BC): it would be like believing in the authenticity of the maxims of the Seven Wise Men.

To refute Theognis' autoschediasmos does not mean to deny the Rhodian origin of the *chelidonisma* quoted in *Deipnosophistae*. Or rather, it is most plausible that the song in its turn stemmed from an ancient tradition, maybe even earlier than the 7th century BC and widespread well beyond the boundaries of Rhodes itself. However, assigning a precise date to it is an arduous task.³⁹ Nor is it possible to obtain a linguistic as well as a metrical uniformity.⁴⁰

Therefore, I believe that a conservative approach should be adopted when constituting the text of the *chelidonisma*. The aim here should not be to restore the *chelidonisma* sung by children of Rhodes around the end of the 7th century BC, but more realistically to edit the song that Athenaeus and his source knew.

As a result, the metrical structure of the *chelidonisma* appears to be based on simple and basic rhythms. Aeolic-choriambic sequences (cf. ll. 1–13) and iambic *cola* (cf. ll. 14–20) are, indeed, recurring rhythms of ritual songs.⁴¹ The traditional and archaic character of the poem is also confirmed by the paratactic construction, elliptical expressions, figures of iterations and syntactical and grammatical parallelisms.

On the other hand, the poem's language seems to betray a varied and more 'literary' nature: the conservation of -ā(-) (cf. ll. 4, 6, 15, 16, 19), the presence of the

³⁷ Cf. NERI (n. 5) 201.

³⁸ It is typical of Greeks «to fabricate authors for the *adesposta*: Eriphanis and Kleobulos were made the originators of songs that are truly anonymous» (SMYTH [n. 5] 491). Most scholars, therefore, do not trust Theognis' information: cf. ADRADOS (n. 28) 64; CERRATO (n. 6) 323; SMYTH (n. 5) 508; CESSI (n. 29) 490, n. 26; CAMPBELL (n. 29) 446; LAMBIN (n. 6) 363; YATROMANOLAKIS (n. 3) 268. On Eriphanis' song (PMG 850) see LAMBIN (n. 6) 38–52; PORDOMINGO (n. 6) 464; NERI (n. 5) 205–207.

³⁹ The chronological interpretation accepted by most scholars is that of Ahrens, which traces the *chelidonisma* back to the time «qua genuina Rhodiorum Doris Atthide temperari coepta erat», i.e. the 5th and 4th centuries BC (AHRENS, H. L.: *De Graecae linguae dialectis*. Vol. I–II. Göttingae 1839–1843, II 479). Similarly PAGE (n. 5) 451: «est chelidonismi forma recentior: vetustiore Rhodiorum dialectum aliquatenus restituere possis». ADRADOS (n. 28) 64 does not exclude an earlier dating, provided it is not beyond the 7th century BC. Cf. MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 556.

⁴⁰ Cf. NERI (n. 5) 204: «Priscam carminis dialectum metricamque rationem restituere frustra conaberis, ubi aetatum gentiumque vestigia variorum inveneris.» For an overview of the metric and linguistic issues (with the different approaches adopted by editors), see MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 549f. and 555–558, respectively.

⁴¹ Cf. WEST, M. L.: *Greek Metre*. Oxford 1982, 146–149; MARTINELLI, M. G.: *Gli strumenti del poeta. Elementi di metrica greca*. Bologna 1995, 192, 253f. See also PORDOMINGO (n. 6) 473.

Ionism/epicism $\mu\upsilon\nu$ (l. 17), the verbal endings in $-\mu\epsilon\varsigma$ (ll. 13 and 15) and the aforementioned genitive $\tau\upsilon\rho\tilde{\omega}$ (l. 9) – besides the respective Attic forms – recall the literary Doric of Hellenistic age (similar to that of Theocritus and Callimachus).

Therefore, it is not far-fetched to assume that the *chelidonisma*, as known to Theognis and transmitted by Athenaeus, is a ‘literary’ version or – at least – one of the first written versions, probably dating from the 3rd or the 2nd century BC, of an ancient and traditional song.⁴² It is no surprise that the original *chelidonisma* was re-worked and adapted to literary use during the Hellenistic age. Indeed, in this period the erudite passion of Alexandrian poets for folklore and local mores, as well as for the literary recycling of ritual and traditional materials, was widespread.⁴³ Another example is Phoenix’s *koronisma*.

The *koronisma* displays the typical mechanisms of beggars: minimal requests; blessings for whosoever donates something; veiled threats of jinx for those who do not satisfy the beggars’ demands; asking for charity as payment for the musical entertainment provided. The main purpose of Phoenix’s poem was to rework in literary terms a song performed in the begging tradition.⁴⁴ This same operation has been identified in the *chelidonisma*, although in the *koronisma* the poetic element is more defined. This may be noticed, for example, in the use of the choliamb and in the literary Ionic language.

Analogous considerations can be made for the two *eiresionai*. On 1st May, at Abingdon near Oxford, young people used to intone the following chant:

“We’ve been rambling all the night,
And sometime of this day;
And now returning back again,
We bring a garland gay.
A garland gay we bring you here;
And at your door we stand;
It is a sprout well budded out,
The work of our Lord’s hand”.⁴⁵

⁴² The *chelidonisma* cannot be assumed to belong to a purely oral tradition. Nor, in the same way, may we assert that this text stems from a well-established written literary tradition. Nevertheless, we are now aware that there are many degrees between those extremes. Indeed, when an oral song is written down, it may be subject to more or less radical changes in its style, its structure and/or its rhythm. For example, LORD: The Singer (n. 11) 22 talks about a “scale of pure oral tradition → transitional stages → written tradition”. On the concept of ‘transitional text’, see *ibid.* 212–237 (cf. also 16–19). Unfortunately, on the basis of the data we have, it is impossible to state how much distance occurs between the ‘original’ version of the *chelidonisma* and its literary or semi-literary fixed form. Similarly, we are not able to tell how much influence this written version had on the later oral tradition. On the influence of a fixed text, see LORD: Epic Singers (n. 11) 170–185.

⁴³ Cf. DE STEFANI (n. 28) 92; MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 571.

⁴⁴ The literary character of the *koronisma* brought about interpretations that do not take into account the general structure of the poem and consequently regard it as something more than just a poetic version of a begging song. Cf. GERHARD, G. A.: *Phoenix von Kolophon*. Leipzig–Berlin 1909, 179–181; WILLS, G.: Phoenix of Colophon’s Κορώνισμα . *CQ* 20 (1970) 112–118; FURLEY, W. D.: Apollo Humbled: Phoenix’ *Koronisma* in Its Hellenistic Literary Setting. *MD* 33 (1994) 9–31.

⁴⁵ FRAZER, J. G.: *The Golden Bough. A Study in Magic and Religion*. London 1923² (1922¹), 121.

The examples of chants such as this are unlimited. They are part of ancient pagan traditions of vegetable and plant worship that still survive in some rural pockets of modern Europe. One well-known example is the ‘May tree’ or the ‘May pole’. It was the tradition of European peasants during traditional festivals to hold high a branch or a tree so as to bring home to each village the blessing that only the tree spirit was able to bestow.⁴⁶

Such propitiatory rituals were also widespread in the Greek world: one of these was called εἰρεσιώνη.⁴⁷ This term indicated a big olive or laurel branch, wrapped in wool (possibly white and purple-stained) bandages and laden with all sorts of fruits.⁴⁸ In Athens, for example, the εἰρεσιώνη was carried in a procession, presumably by boys, at the Pyanepsia in honour of Apollo, to whom it was then offered. On that occasion, twigs were also fastened on the door of every house as a good omen – like the surviving custom to hang up a twig of mistletoe in houses – and were annually burned and replaced with new samples. In addition, and more pertinently, while carrying the May tree was accompanied by chants, so too the ancient Greeks used to perform traditional songs during the ritual of *eiresione*. There are two songs of this type handed down to us: the so-called Samian *eiresione* and the Attic *eiresione*.

The former is part of the fifteen epigrams attributed to Homer and is contained in the pseudo-Herodotean *Life of Homer* (33. 467–480 All.), whereas the latter *eiresione* is cited by a number of witnesses (twelve in all) ranging from Plutarchus’ *Lives*

⁴⁶ Cf. FRAZER (n. 45) 120: “In spring or early summer or even on Midsummer Day, it was and still is in many parts of Europe the custom to go out to the woods, cut down a tree and bring it into the village, where it is set up amid general rejoicings; or the people cut branches in the woods, and fasten them on every house. The intention of these customs is to bring home to the village, and to each house, the blessings which the tree-spirit has in its power to bestow. Hence the custom in some places of planting a May-tree before every house, or of carrying the village May-tree from door to door, that every household may receive its share of the blessing.” Vestiges of these ancient rituals are surely the greasy pole, a traditional fiesta game, and the Christmas tree (albeit the latter in a different season of the year). On tree worship and related rites, see MANNHARDT, W.: *Wald- und Feldkulte*. Vol. I–II. Berlin 1904–1905² (1875–1877¹) I; LEYDI-MANTOVANI (n. 25) 180–185; FRAZER (n. 45) 120–135.

⁴⁷ For the sources on the ritual of *eiresione*, cf. *testimonia* in F 3 as well as Ar. *Eq.* 728f., *Pl.* 1053f. (cf. *Suda* εἰ 184 A., Apostol. 18. 67 [CPG II 740]), Lycurg. *FGrHist* 401c F 1a, *schol.*^{VEIO} Ar. *Eq.* 729a (II) M.J., *schol.*^{1h} Ar. *Eq.* 729d M.J., *schol.* Ar. *Pl.* 1054a–d Ch., *Suda* δ 589 A., Lact. *Plac. Comm.* in Stat. *Theb.* II 737–738, XII 492 Sweeney. Other similar rituals were practiced throughout Greece, such as the κοπώ and κορυθαλία or κορυθαλῖς in Boeotian and Doric areas, respectively. Generally, on the *eiresione*, *kopo* and *korythale* see ILGEN (n. 4) 134–164; MANNHARDT (n. 46) II 214–253 (in particular, on the Samian *eiresione* 243–248); NILSSON, M. P.: *Griechische Feste von religiöser Bedeutung: mit Ausschluss der Attischen*. Leipzig 1906, 116–118, 164–166, 182–189; PESTALOZZA, U.: *Le thargelie ateniesi*. *SMSR* 6 (1930) 232–272, here 233–251; CESSI (n. 29) 483–487; DEUBNER, L.: *Attische Feste*. Berlin 1932, 198–204; FOLLET, S.: Deux vocables religieux rares attestés épigraphiquement. *RPh* 48 (1974) 30–34, here 30–32; SCHÖNBERGER (n. 26) 26–42; BURKERT (n. 34) 134–138; LAMBIN (n. 6) 354–361; GIANNOTTI, G. F.: *Storie di calendario: il tempo festivo*. *SLGA* III (1996) 162–164.

⁴⁸ On the various interpretations of the etymology of the term, see CHANTRAINE, P.: *La formation des noms en grec ancien*. Paris 1933, 208; SCHÖNBERGER, J. K.: Εἰρεσιώνη. *Glotta* 29 (1941) 85–87; GROßELJ, M.: Etyma Graeca. *ZAnt* 1 (1951) 121–131, here 122f.; P. CHANTRAINE in *DELG* 324, s.v. εἰρεσιώνη; SCHÖNBERGER (n. 26) 26f.; RUIPÉREZ, M. S.: Mycenaean we-we-si-jo, Alphabetical Greek εἰρεσιώνη and Τειρεσιάς. In DEGER-JALKOTZY, S. – HILLER, S. – PANAGL, O. (eds.): *Floreat studia Mycenaea. Akten des 10. Internationalen Mykenologischen Colloquiums in Salzburg vom 1.-5. Mai 1995*. Vol. I–II. Wien 1999, II 537–542.

(1st or 2nd century) to the *Collections of Proverbs* by Michael Apostolius (15th century).⁴⁹

In the Samian *eiresione*, a mocking and threatening tone can be detected similar to what occurs in the *chelidonisma*, which is underscored by a comparable metrical structure. On one hand, the *chelidonisma* shows a succession of aeolic-choriambic sequences and iambic trimeters – as I have mentioned above, typically ritual rhythms. On the other hand, in the Samian *eiresione*, the analogous minatory παρακαταλογία in iambic metre is preceded by a series of hexameters, which represent both the metre of the literary reference model (Homer), and “the oldest and the most folkloric of metres”.⁵⁰

The formal structure of the Samian *eiresione* also bears a striking resemblance to that of the *koronisma*. In the same way, it starts off with blandishments towards the landlord, proceeds with a series of blessings for the whole family, in particular, wishes for wedded bliss, and concludes with the insistent requests from the beggars.⁵¹

It can be therefore inferred that the Samian *eiresione* is part of the tradition of begging songs, handed down through the literary channel, such as in the case of the *chelidonisma* and the *koronisma*. However, like the *koronisma*, it has been excluded from the *Carmina popularia*, because of its higher poetic level and/or its attribution to Homer.

The Attic *eiresione* did not share a better fate. Although it is impossible to clarify the exact origin of the refrain – which could either be entirely ‘popular’, belong to the literary channel or be mediated by the latter – the Attic *eiresione* is without a doubt a traditional song. Nevertheless, it has been omitted from most editions of the *Carmina popularia*,⁵² on the basis of the argumentations of Bergk, who dealt with the Attic refrain separately due to its metrical uniformity.⁵³ Again, this exclusion seems to be not only unjustified but also contradictory, if we think of the hexameter as the metre of tradition *par excellence* and the favourite *medium* for oracular sentences, riddles, rigmorales and magic formulae.⁵⁴

There is another song requiring our analysis: the so-called *Siculorum mendica cantilena* (F 5). Like the *chelidonisma*, it appears in the main editions of the *Carmina popularia*. In brief, this Sicilian refrain comes down to us through the scholiographic *corpus* of bucolic poets and more precisely in the section devoted to εὔρεσις τῶν βοῦκολικῶν (*Proleg.* Theocr. B Wend.). This is a short treatise on the origin of bucolic poetry,⁵⁵ which provides three etiological anecdotes on the subject. According to the third (cf. *Proleg.* Theocr. Ba 2. 21 – Bb 3. 15 Wend.), bucolic poetry first appeared

⁴⁹ Cf. the *testimonia* in F 4.

⁵⁰ FURLEY (n. 44) 16; cf. n. 21.

⁵¹ On the similarities between the Samian *eiresione* and the two bird songs, cf. MARKWALD (n. 26) 251f.

⁵² With the exceptions of DIEHL (n. 5) (*Carm. pop.* 2) and EDMONDS (n. 5) (*Carm. pop.* 17).

⁵³ “Porro omnia, quae heroicis versibus composita sunt, procul habui. Seiungenda igitur cantilena notissima Εἰρεσιώνη” (BERGK [n. 5] 681).

⁵⁴ Cf. WEST: Greek Metre (n. 41) 35.

⁵⁵ On this treatise, see BERNASCONI, A.: Un trattatello sull’origine della poesia bucolica (*Sch. in Theocr. vet. prol. B*): *AAnthHung* 50.1 (2010) 27–62.

in Syracuse, when, after an episode of bloody civil strife, the citizens celebrated the goddess Artemis, as she was believed to have re-established peace and harmony. The celebration was conducted with songs and gifts that became part of a traditional ritual.⁵⁶ From that time onwards singing contests were held during the festivals in honour of Artemis: the winners received the loaf carried by the defeated antagonists and were able to remain in Syracuse; the losers had to roam from village to village begging for charity and singing entertaining and blessing-filled songs in return.

To sum up, all the songs we have looked at so far demonstrate that the begging tradition has its roots in ancient propitiatory rituals. These were then merged and institutionalised into more or less official celebrations. Ancient Greeks (mostly children and young people) usually sang these songs and chants for the purpose of collecting small gifts (generally food or drink), in exchange for prosperity and wealth.

The texts, especially the longer ones (FF 1–3), reveal a similar structure characterized by four essential features:

- The *captatio benevolentiae* addressed to landlords (cf. e.g. FF 1. 6–9; 2. 1, 4, 18; 3. 1f.);
- Blessings for the whole family (cf. e.g. FF 2. 10–14; 3. 8–10; 5. 1f.);
- Demands for gifts (cf. e.g. FF 1. 6–12; 2. 1–7);
- Joking threats in case of refusal (cf. e.g. FF 1. 13–18; 3. 14f.).⁵⁷

Other recurring themes stand out. These include the *topos* of the god ἐπικίδιος (cf. FF 2. 8; 3. 3–5; 5. 1f.)⁵⁸ and the formulaic expressions beggars employ to get people to open their front doors (cf. FF 1. 19; 2. 8; 3. 3) or menacingly ask for offers: cf. FF 1. 14; 3. 14. In these last two passages, the same two ellipses are found: a lack of apodosis in the first conditional sentence and no verb in the protasis of the following conditional sentence. The general meaning is: “if you give us something, that’s fine and we will go away; if you don’t, we won’t leave you in peace / we shall not stay”.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ On the Syracusan ritual, see FRONTISI-DUCROUX, F.: *Artémis bucolique*. *RHR* 198 (1981) 29–56; FRONTISI-DUCROUX, F.: *L’homme, le cerf et le berger*. *Chemins grecs de la civilité*. *TR* 4 (1983) 53–76; LAMBIN (n. 6) 352–354.

⁵⁷ We can observe more closely F 1. 13 πότερ’ ἀπίωμες ἢ λαβώμεθα. This blackmail, which announces the far more explicit threats that follow, has an equivalent in the modern motto ‘*Trick or treat?*’ – the slogan chanted by children who call at houses to solicit gifts at Halloween. Cf. CAMPBELL (n. 29) 446f.

⁵⁸ Such a *topos* also occurs also in Hippon. fr. 44, 1f. Dg.² ἐμοὶ δὲ Πλοῦτος – ἔστι γὰρ λίην τυφλός – / ἐς τῷκί’ ἐλθὼν οὐδάμ’ εἶπεν κτλ., Ar. *Pl.* 230ff. σὺ δ’, ὦ κράτιστε Πλοῦτε πάντων δαιμόνων, / εἴσω μετ’ ἐμοῦ δεῦρ’ εἴσιθ’ κτλ., 790ff., Plut. *Quaest. conv.* VI 8. 693f ἔξω Βούλιμον, ἔσω δὲ Πλοῦτον καὶ Ὑγίειαν. In F 5. 1f. the beggars invite the landlord to salute (δέξαι) good fortune (τὰν ἀγαθὰν τύχην) and health (τὰν ὑγίειαν). However, in this case the two terms might also indicate well-being and the respective divine personifications: cf. e.g. Paus. V 15. 6 Τύχης ἐστὶν ἀγαθῆς βωμός, IX 39. 5 τὸ δὲ οἰκημα ... Τύχης ἱερὸν ἐστὶν ἀγαθῆς, Paus. V 26. 2 παρὰ δὲ τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ μεγάλου τὴν ἐν ἀριστερᾷ πλευρὰν ἀνέθηκεν ἄλλα [scil. ἀναθήματα] ... καὶ θεοὺς αὐθις Ἀσκληπιὸν καὶ Ὑγίειαν, IX 26. 8 τὸ δὲ ἄγαλμα τὸ Διονύσου καὶ αὐθις Τύχης, ἐτέρωθι δὲ Ὑγείας.

⁵⁹ Cf. Agamemnon’s speech in *Il.* I 135f. ἀλλ’ εἰ μὲν δώσουσι γέρας μεγάθυμοι Ἀχαιοὶ / ἄρσαντες κατὰ θυμὸν ὅπως ἀντάξιον ἔσται: also in this case, the apodosis is implied but easily deducible.

In addition, we can have a look at another pattern, which occurs in F 1. 1 and F 3. 11. The first section of the *chelidonisma* (ll. 1–5) is devoted to the arrival of the swallow: the bird that, already for the ancient Greeks, was the emblem of returning spring.⁶⁰ The *incipit* ἦλθ', ἦλθε χελιδών, still retained in the modern carols with the same words (“ἦρθε ἦρθε χελιδόνα”) or similar expressions (“χελιδόνα ἐρχεται”),⁶¹ immediately makes such an image vivid. Indeed, the repetition of the verb assumes a plain literary and rhythmical function: it stresses the cyclical return of the swallow.⁶² In the case of the Samian *eiresione*, the reference to the opening words of the *chelidonisma* (ll. 1–3) is apparent. It is a reference that is highlighted by the syntactic structure, with the analogous repetition of the main verb: the *eiresione* or, even better, its personified spirit, will cyclically return just like the swallow in spring and, just like the arrival of the swallow, the arrival of the tree spirit represents a sort of New Year’s Day blessing.⁶³

4. FINAL REMARK

In the current state of research and studies, the need to review the reference *corpus* in terms of both omissions and additions is apparent.⁶⁴ This should be based on an exhaustive census of texts which have as yet not been taken into account (e.g. ‘the songs of sailors’, *P. Oxy.* 425, 1383), or which have not been included intentionally in the sylloge by earlier editors. Furthermore, more work remains to be done in defining the concept of ‘popular’ in the ancient Greek world.

It is hard to deny that in the 21st century, ancient Greek folksong tradition still requires the detailed attention of scholars and experts.⁶⁵

APPENDIX

F 1

Edd.: Ath. VIII 360b–d. *Carm. pop.* 2 Neri = 848 Campbell¹ = *PMG* 848 = 20 Edmonds = 32 Diehl = 22 Smyth = 41 Bergk^{3,4} = 29 Bergk² = 17 Bergk¹ = 32 Schneidewin.

Testt.: (I) Ath. VIII 360b–d, (II) Eust. *Od.* 1914. 45–53 St. Cf. Hesych. χ 324 Cunn.

⁶⁰ Cf. THOMPSON (n. 29) 319. This topic occurs, for example, in the proverb μία χελιδών ἔαρ οὐ ποιεῖ, from which the equivalent proverb of the modern languages derives (cf. R. TOSI in *DSL* 549f.).

⁶¹ Cf. *supra*, § 3.

⁶² Cf. PORDOMINGO (n. 6) 472.

⁶³ Cf. also Ar. *Av.* 679 ἦλθες, ἦλθες, ὥφθης. In Aristophanes’ passage the similarity is due not only to the use of the same verb as in the *chelidonisma*, but also because the verb repetition emphasises the emotional connection with the interlocutor. It is not excluded that this passage could have directly been influenced by the text of the *chelidonisma*: cf. MAGNANI: Note marginali (n. 6) 54.

⁶⁴ Cf. MAGNANI: *Carmina* (n. 6) 570.

⁶⁵ Cf. ROSSI, L. E.: *Letteratura greca*. Firenze 1995, 192.

- (N) ἦλθ', ἦλθε χελιδὼν
καλὰς ὥρας ἄγουσα,
καὶ καλοὺς ἐνιαυτούς,
ἐπὶ γαστέρα λευκά,
κάπὶ νῶτα μέλαινα. 5
παλάθαν οὐ προκυκλεῖς
ἐκ πίονος οἴκου
οἴνου τε δέπαστρον
τυρῶ τε κάνυστρον;
† καὶ πυρῶνα † χελιδὼν 10
καὶ λεκιθίταν
οὐκ ἀπωθεῖται.
πότερ' ἀπίωμες ἢ λαβώμεθα;
εἰ μὲν τι δώσεις· εἰ δὲ μή, οὐκ ἔασομεν·
ἢ τὰν θύραν φέρωμες ἢ τὸ ὑπέρθυρον 15
ἢ τὰν γυναιῖκα τὰν ἔσω καθημέναν·
μικρὰ μὲν ἔστι, ῥαδίως μιν οἴσομεν.
ἂν δὴ φέρης τι, μέγα δὴ τι φέροις.
ἄνοιγ' ἄνοιγε τὰν θύραν χελιδόνι·
οὐ γὰρ γέροντές ἐσμεν, ἀλλὰ παιδίᾳ. (N)

Metr.: ll. 1, 4, 7–9 reiziana (rei: b l kkl u); ll. 2, 3, 5 pherecrateans (pher: xxi kkl u); l. 6 acephalic choriambic dimeter (2cho^B: xxxl wwl u); l. 10 corrupt (reizianum or pherecratean?); l. 11 adonean (ad: l wwl u); l. 12 hypodochmium (hδ: l wl l u); l. 13 acephalic reizianum (o adonean) + hypodochmium (·rei hδ: kkkkl u | l kl ku); ll. 14–17, 19f iambic trimeters (3ia: xl kl xzl kzl xl ku); l. 18 iambic metron + acephalic choriambic dimeter (ia 2cho^B: kl ku | xxxl wwl u).

Codd.: ACE (I) – M (II).

|| 1 ἦνθ' ἦνθε Hermann² || 2 ὥρας Ilgen || 3 καὶ καλοὺς I, II : καὶ post Hermann² del. edd. pl. (καλοὺς <τ'> Crusius², prob. Wilamowitz²) || 5 κάπὶ I(A) : ἐπὶ I(CE), II, post Hermann² edd. pl. : κ' ἐπὶ Ahrens¹ : πὶ Usener : κηπὶ Wilamowitz¹ | μέλαινα I(A) : -ννα Usener || 6 οὐ προκυκλεῖς I : σὺ προκύκλει post Hermann² edd. pl. (τὸ Morelli, iam προκύκλει Casaubon) : σὺ προκυκλεῖν Usener (οὖν Ilgen, iam προκυκλεῖν Casaubon) : alia alii || 7 (παλάθαν-) οἴκου; dist. Ahrens¹ | οἴκω Edmonds || 8 οἶνω Edmonds || 9 τυρῶ I(A) : -ροῦ I(CE), edd. pl. : -ρῶν I(B) | κάνυστρον I(CE) : κανν- I(A) || 10 καὶ πυρῶνα I(A), Martín Vázquez² (iam kai delete Hermann²) : καὶ πυρῶν ᾧ I(CE), Palumbo Stracca (πυρῶν fort. emendatam lectionem pro τυρῶ cens. Kaibel) : πυρῶν τε vel καὶ πυρὰ dub. Hermann² : (τυρῶν τ. κ.) κατυρῶν ᾧ Ahrens¹ : καὶ πύρ- να Bergk (iam πύρνον Ilgen), rec. Page, Campbell¹, De Stefani, Neri, Olson : κατυρῶνα dub. Bergk^{2,3,4}, rec. Edmonds : καὶ πύρωνα Wilamowitz¹, rec. Diehl, Gulick, prob. Pordomingo : στυρῶν δὲ Morelli | (παλάθαν-) καὶ πυρῶν; dist. Hermann¹ (prae-euntibus edd. prior.) || 11 κ. <τὸν> λ. Hermann² : κ. <δὴ> λ. Ahrens¹ : κ<ῆρτον> λ. dub. Meineke | λεκιθιτᾶν Palumbo Stracca || 12 ἀπωθεῖται I(AE), II : ἀπο- I(C) : ὠθεῖται Edmonds || 13 <κενοὶ> π. ᾧ. Ahrens¹ : πότερ(α πάλιν) ᾧ. vel πότερ(α κενοὶ) 'πίωμες dub. Meineke | ἀπίωμες I(A) : -μεν I(CE), II | ἢ <τί σου> λ. Edmonds || 14 αἰ (bis) Edmonds | ἔασομες Schweighäuser, rec. Palumbo Stracca : ἔασομες Morelli || 15 φέρωμες I(A) : -ομεν I(CE), II | τὸ ὑπέρθυρον I, II : θυρ- Dindorf : θούπ- Ahrens¹ || 16 τὰν ἔ. I : κάν ἔ. II | (ἦ τ. θ. ... ἦ τ. γ.-) καθημέναν; dist. Martín Vázquez² || 17 μὲν I : γὰρ dub. Bergk^{2,3,4} | μιν I : νιν Meineke, rec. Palumbo Stracca | οἴσομεν I(AE) : -μα I(C) : -μες Schweighäuser, rec. Palumbo Stracca : οἰσοῦμες Morelli || 18 varie temptatum | φέρης τι I(A) : -ροις τι I(CE) : τι -ρης dub. traiec. Page | φέροις I : -οιο Bergk^{2,3,4} || 20 post 17 dub. traiec. De Stefani | εἰμες Edmonds : ἔσ- Morelli.

F 2

Edd.: Ath. VIII 359e–360b. Phoen. fr. 2 D.³ = 2 Knox = 2 Powell = 1 Schneidewin.
Test.: Ath. VIII 359e–360b. Cf. Hesych. κ 3748 L., Eust. *Od.* 1914, 49s. St.

- (N) ἐσθλοί, κορώνη χεῖρα πρόσδοτε κριθέων
 τῇ παιδί τῷ πόλλωνος, ἢ λέκος πυρῶν
 ἢ ἄρτον ἢ ἡμαιθον ἢ ὅτι τις χρήζει·
 δότ' ὄγαθοί, (τι) τῶν ἕκαστος ἐν χερσίν
 ἔχει κορώνη· χᾶλα λήψεται χονδρόν· 5
 φιλεῖ γάρ αὕτη πάγχυ ταῦτα δαίνυσθαι.
 ὁ νῦν ἄλας δούς αὐθι κηρίον δώσει.
 ὦ παῖ, θύρην ἄγκλινε· Πλοῦτος ἔκρουσε,
 καὶ τῇ κορώνη παρθένος φέροι σῦκα.
 θεοί, γένοιτο πάντ' ἄμεμπτος ἡ κούρη, 10
 κάφνειὸν ἄνδρα κώνομαστὸν ἐξεύροι,
 καὶ τῷ γέροντι πατρὶ κοῦρον εἰς χεῖρας
 καὶ μητρὶ κούρην εἰς τὰ γούνα κατθεῖη,
 θάλος τρέφειν γυναικα τοῖς κασιγνήτοις.
 ἐγὼ δ' ὅκου πόδες φέρωσιν † ὀφθαλμοὺς † 15
 ἀμείβομαι Μούσῃσι πρὸς θύρης ἄδων,
 καὶ δόντι καὶ μὴ δόντι πλεῦνα τῶν Γύγεω.

* * *

ἀλλ' ὄγαθοί, 'πορέξαθ' ὦν μυχὸς πλουτεῖ·
 δός, ὦ ἀναξ, δός καὶ σὺ πολλά μοι νύμφη·
 νόμος κορώνη χεῖρα δοῦν' ἐπαιτούση. 20
 τοσαῦτ' ἀείδω· δός τι καὶ καταχρήσει. (N)

Metr.: choliamb (chol: x l kl x l kl l ul).

Codd.: ACE.

|| 1 χῖδρα Meineke : (ζ') χεῖρα dub. Knox || 2 τοῦ ἀπ- codd. : corr. Knox : τάπ- Dindorf | λέκος om. CE : λέχος Musurus, unde λάχος Casaubon | πυρούς CE || 3 ἢ ἡμαιθον om. CE : ἱμάτιον («tunicam») Daléchamp : ἢ γε ψαιστόν Ruhnkenius | ἦτ' ἄ. ἦτ' ἢ. Bergk⁵, Meineke : ἦ τ' ἄ. ἦ τ' ἢ. dub. Meineke : εἴτ' ἄ. εἴθ' ἢ. dub. Powell : alia alii | τί τις dub. Kaibel || 4 δότ' ὄγαθοί τῶν ἕκαστος τις ἐν χ. codd. : corr. Schweighäuser, iam (τι) Casaubon : δοτ' ὦ ἡγαθοὶ δοθ', ὦν ἔ. ἐν χ. Bergk⁵ : δότω, ἡγαθοί, τις, τῶν ἔ. ἐν χ. Knox || 5 καὶ ἄλα codd. : corr. Dindorf | χόνδρον codd. || 6 ταῦτα codd. : πάντα Meineke || 7 αὐθις codd. : corr. Musurus || 8 post h.v. fort. unum duosve versus excidisse cens. Bergk⁵ | ἄγκλινε CE : ἀν κλινὲ A | ἔκρουσε Bergk⁵, recc. Powell, De Stefani, Olson : ἤκουσε codd. : ἤκει δὴ nescioquis ap. Schweighäuser : ἤκει σοι Knox || 9 φέροι B, Bergk⁵, Powell, Knox, De Stefani, Olson : φέρει codd. | φ. σῦκα A : σῦκα φ. CE || 10 γένοιτο A | πάντα μεμπτός A : μετᾰπεμπτος c.m. Musurus : ἄμεμπτα (τῇ κούρῃ) dub. Meineke | κόρη codd. : corr. Schweighäuser || 11 κώνομαστὸν dub. Meineke || 13 post h.v. fere κῆρ εὐφρανέουσιν ἡνίκ' ἔς χορὸν φοιτῇ dub. ins. Knox || 14–17 post θάλος om. CE || 14 τρόφιν Knox | τοῖσιν ἱγνήτοις (vel ἱγνησιν) Bergk⁵ || 15 ὅκοι dub. Dindorf | με πόδε Haupt | φέρουσιν A : corr. Bergk | ἰφθίμους Haupt : εὐφθόγγους vel ἁψάλτους dub. Crusius¹ : ἀφνειούς dub. Furley : ἀφάρτοις Magnelli (cl. *GVI* 967 [ἁ]φ-θάρτοις μούσαις) : (φέρωσι) τοῦφλημα dub. De Stefani || 16 ἐρείδομαι dub. Knox | Μούσαισι A : corr. Meineke | θύραις A : corr. Kaibel | μούσας δὲ πρὸς θύραις ἄδω Peppmüller || 17 πλείονα A : corr. Meineke | τῶν Γύγεω Rossbach, recc. Powell, De Stefani, Olson : τῶν γ' ἔδω Dindorf : (πλείον') ὦν αἰτέω dub. Dindorf, unde τῶν αἰτέω Meineke, rec. Gulick : (πλήμα) τῶν ἀγγέων Bergk⁵ : alia alii | post h.v. desunt nonnulli versus || 18–20 post 7 traiec. Peppmüller || 18 ἐπορέξαθ' codd. (-τε CE) : corr. de Pauw : ἀπορέξαθ' dub. Ilgen || 19–21 om. CE || 19 post 20 traiec. Bergk | δὸς ὄναξ δός A : corr. Crusius¹ : (μυχὸς ...) (δόμου.) δὸς ὄναξ (sic) Casaubon, unde (δόμου.) δὸς, ὦ ἡν Ilgen : δὸς ὦ νεᾶνις de Pauw : δός μοι, δὸς ὄναξ dub. Schweighäuser : δὸς ὄνα δός τι Meineke, unde (δὸς ὦν), δὸς ὄνα Magnelli : δὸς ὦν ἀναξ, δὸς Bergk⁵, unde (δὸς ὦν), δὸς ὄναξ De Stefani (cl. *Anacreont.* 11. 12 W. δὸς οὖν, δὸς κτλ.) | πότνα Ilgen || 20 νόμος A : δός μοι Casaubon : νομὸν Ilgen (scil. δός: «date pabulum cornici») | δουν' A : corr. Dindorf, iam Stephanus : δ' οὖν Musurus : δοῦν Naeke, iam Stephanus || 21 τοιαῦτ' εἰδὼς

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Sigla employed in the critical apparatus

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